(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The third Census of registered small scale industries in the country is proposed to be conducted during the year 1999-2001.

Public Sector reform programme

1290. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to embark on a comprehensive public sector reform programme;

(b) if so, the salient features and timeframe thereof;

(c) whether disinvestment is an integral component of the plan;

(d) if so, the unit-wise details thereof;

(e) whether there has been any progress in the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) The policy for public sector enterprises has already been stated in the Common Minimum Programme of the Government, which *inter-alia* includes 'disinvestment'. A Disinvestment Commission has been set up for advising the Government and on its recommendations, it has already decided to disinvest in three enterprises namely MTNL, CONCOR and GAIL in the current financial year. In addition, IOC will also be disinvested during this year as approved by the Government earlier. Government have also initiated measures to assist the selected PSEs in developing into globak giants and company specific actions have been initiated for the reform and restructuring of other enterprises.

Patents on Neem-related products held by U.S. Corporations

1291. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during a 10 year period, from 1985 to 1995 there were 53 patents on Neem-related products and majority of these products were held by U.S. Corporations; and

(b) if so, what prevented Government to enact an exclusive Act for the protection of medicinal plants as also stringent conservation laws to combat the Intellectural Property Rights (IPR) regime and the mechanism of international trade?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per provisions of the Patents Act, 1970 drugs or medicines are not patentable but only process for manufacture of these substances is patentable in India and Patent Offices in India have been receiving applications for process patents for different products from neem which are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970.

आबिद हुसैन समिति की सिफारिश

1292. श्री रामगोपाल यादव:
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने लघु उद्योगों के संबंध में आबिद हुसैन समिति की सिफारिशों को पूरी तरह से कार्यान्वित कर दिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो समिति की कौन-कौन सी सिफारिशों को कार्यान्वित किया गया है;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने आबिद हुसैन समिति की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिए किसी अन्य समिति का गठन किया है;